

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03  
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02  
CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04  
CEA-01 PC-01 CU-02 MED-02 OES-06 AGRE-00 INT-05 IGA-02  
PA-01 PRS-01 /096 W

-----122213Z 022430 /71

R 111350Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6614

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0045

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, LT

SUBJECT: CALL ON PRIMIN JONATHAN: COMMENT ON US ASSISTANCE

REF: MASERU 0030

1. PRIMIN JONATHAN'S FIRST MAJOR POINT WAS US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF PEACE CORPS. IT IS A MATTER OF PRIDE TO HIM PERSONALLY, HE SAID, THAT "AFTER HAVING LED LESOTHO INTO INDEPENDENCE IN 1966", HE HAD SIGNED THE AGREEMENT WITH PEACE CORPS THAT RESULTED IN PEACE CORPS COMING TO LESOTHO. HE RECALLED HIS TRIP TO CALIFORNIA DURING THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION AND HIS MEETING AT THE WHITE HOUSE. PM SAID PEACE CORPS HAS MADE A PARTICULARLY VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION IN LESOTHO, NOTING ALSO HIS PERSONAL INTEREST IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND PC ASSISTANCE THAT HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN THIS FIELD (SEHLABATHEBE NATIONAL PARK). HE HOPED THAT PC WORK WOULD CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED.

2. US-FUNDED MEDICAL SERVICES: THE PM TURNED NEXT TO HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY AID AND PEACE CORPS. HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR GRATITUDE FOR THE HELP RECEIVED IN EYE CARE WHICH HE VALUED  
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BECAUSE IT WAS ASSISTANCE THAT REACHED PEOPLE DIRECTLY, AND WHICH HE HOPED WOULD CONTINUE. HE ALSO MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE TSAKHOLO MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH CLINIC WHICH, HE SAID, SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

3. SOIL CONSERVATION: REFERRING TO THE THABA BOSIU PROJECT, THE PM EMPHASIZED THAT SOIL CONSERVATION IS THE MAJOR PROBLEM FACING

LESOTHO. HE SAID HE HAD FAILED PERHAPS TO EXPRESS HIS PRECISE WISHES WITH REGARD TO SOIL CONSERVATION WHEN THABA BOSIU PROJECT WAS BEING FORMULATED. SOIL CONSERVATION IS A NATIONAL PROBLEM, HE SAID, NOT TO BE TREATED IN ISOLATION AS A PROBLEM LIMITED ONLY TO THABA BOSIU. HE URGED THE US, AS THE EXPERT IN THE FIELD, TO UNDERTAKE NATIONAL SOIL CONSERVATION AS "THEIR PROJECT" IN LESOTHO. GOL COULD THUS SAY IN YEARS TO COME IT WAS THE AMERICANS WHO CAME IN AND HELPED. THE PM OFFERED AIR AND GROUND TRANSPORTATION TO ANY POINTS IN THE COUNTRY NECESSARY TO CONFIRM THE EXTENT OF SOIL EROSION. IF SOMETHING IS NOT DONE ON A NATION-WIDE SCALE, HE FELT PROSPECTS FOR LESOTHO IN 10 - 20 YEARS WOULD BE GRIM. I INTERJECTED BRIEFLY THAT I HOPED LESOTHO WOULD GO FORWARD WITH SOIL CONSERVATION WORK RELYING ON ITS OWN RESOURCES. IN YEARS TO COME IT SHOULD BE KNOWN AS LESOTHO'S PROJECT. THE PM AGREED THAT PROJECT WOULD DEPEND ON CONTRIBUTION OF EVERY BASOTHO MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD. TO EMPHASIZE THE PROBLEM OF SOIL EROSION AND THE NEED FOR CONSERVATION, HE SAID GOL HAD DESIGNATED THE 2ND OF MAY AS SOIL CONSERVATION DAY. IN SUMMARIZING HE SAID THIS WAS THE THORNIEST PROBLEM THAT HIS CABINET FACES.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EDUCATION, MEDICAL CARE, SOIL CONSERVATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** EAID, PDIP, LT, US, PC, (JONATHAN, LEABUA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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